



REHS Program Update September 2008

Continuing Education

The continuing education requirement for Registered Environmental Health Specialists is on track to be adopted in 2009. Each registrant will be required to demonstrate that they have completed 24 contact hours of continuing education as part of the biennial renewal process. Additional information on the continuing education requirement can be found on the Registration Program web site.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/Pages/REHS.aspx>

Training Coordinators

Training Coordinators are working to publish a new comprehensive study guide by refining the outline of knowledge and skills. A final meeting is scheduled for September 10th in Alameda to complete the outline for the study guide.

Student Forum

CEHA sponsored a student forum at their Annual Education Symposium in San Diego March 26th. This event featured a very successful opportunity for interested students to get one on one counseling from working professionals. We intend to make this a regular event at upcoming CEHA AES.

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Committee (EHSRC)

The Committee was established to advise the Department on matters relevant to REHS in California. Meetings are held twice a year; one meeting a year is always held the Tuesday before the CEHA AES. The next meeting will be on September 22, 2008 in San Diego at the Bahia Hotel. Meeting minutes are posted on the

CDPH web site once they become official. Interested persons are welcome to attend, call for dates and times.

University Programs

San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health has applied to the Department for approval of their Environmental Health curriculum as an Option V program. This means that graduates from SDSU-GSPH in the Environmental Health track will be eligible to take the REHS exam upon graduation. The site visit has been completed and a final report is anticipated for committee review in September.

Exam Statistics – What's in a number?

Ensuring that the REHS exam is psychometrically sound, legally defensible and secure is a major concern of the Program. Exam questions are selected from a pool of over 2,000 items and chosen to meet the test criteria or test plan. Since the same exam is not reused, each exam has to be individually analyzed. The passing score, or pass point, is specific for each exam and is based on a number of factors including the mean score, standard deviation, average difficulty, reliability, Angoff probabilities, and other factors.

Exam statistics from each exam are carefully reviewed; all written comments from examinees as well as statistical abnormalities are individually considered. If a question or the answer selection is misleading the question is removed from the scoring. There has been no change to the exam format which has been a multiple choice exam since inception. The table below represents the registered environmental health specialist examination results of the past three years. The passing score is relatively stable whereas the number of persons who pass the exam fluctuates, however there is no consistent trend over the past three years. Similar data can be provided for

exam results starting in November 1992 by contacting our office (916) 449-5663 or email: REHSprog@dhs.ca.gov. Starting in March 2005 the exam employed a new test plan which is based on the 2004 job analysis. The

test plan determines the number of questions on the exam from each

program area. It is vital to the legal defensibility of the REHS exam that it reflects accurately the current job duties of REHS in California. The job analysis has also been used to develop a comprehensive outline of knowledge and skills needed to perform the job and will be the basis for a new study guide.

Exam Date	Original # Questions	Final # Questions	Passing Score	% - # Candidates Pass	% - # Candidates Fail	Total # Candidates
Nov 2005	260	256	62%	64% - 32	36% - 18	50
Mar 2006	260	258	63%	67% - 36	33% - 18	54
July 2006	260	258	62%	74% - 48	26% - 17	65
Nov 2006	260	260	62%	71% - 39	29% - 16	55
Mar 2007	260	260	62%	80% - 35	20% - 9	44
July 2007	260	257	64%	73% - 37	27% - 13	51
Nov 2007	260	259	62%	77% - 37	23% - 11	48
Mar 2008	260	258	62%	63% - 35	37% - 21	56
July 2008	260	256	63%	84% - 53	16% - 10	63

REHS Statistics as of September 2008

Active and current REHS	3193
Retired REHS	337
Suspended REHS *	266
Total	3831

* Currently suspended for failure to pay registration fees.

New REHS in 2007	110
Certifiable applicants	1551

included with active REHS
meet minimum educational requirements

New Staffing

Deann Kanenaga returned to the REHS Program to work on the continuing education program as of December 2007. Deann worked for the program two years ago and is a strong addition to the REHS team. Deann is working on the implementation of the continuing education program. Rounding out the REHS team is Amy Kuang, Office Technician; Margaret Blood, Program Administrator; and Kurt Jackson, Information Technology Support.

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